

Gelligaer Urban District Council.



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27/11/69

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

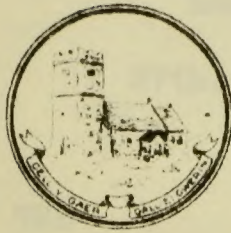
and

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the year

1969

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Public Health Department
Council Offices
Hengoed

27th. August 1970

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs. Jenkins and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the state of the public health in the Gelligaer Urban District, and the work of the Public Health Department during 1969.

The estimated mid year population was 34, 500, compared with 34,644 in 1968. It is sad to note that again there is a slight but significant fall in the estimated population.

The crude death rate (i.e. deaths per 1,000 home population) was 13.0 compared with 11.9 for England and Wales as a whole. The local adjusted rate was 16.9.

In young people between the ages of 1 year and 35 years, the most important cause of death was accident. These deaths are potentially avoidable and all efforts aimed at prevention of accidents in the home, on the roads, and at work must be encouraged. In middle age (45 to 64 years) there are many more deaths in males than in females. The chief cause of death is Ischaemic Heart Disease. The factors that contribute to this serious cause of death include heredity, obesity, cigarette smoking, and lack of physical exercise. The last three of these factors can be controlled and men, before they reach middle age, would be wise to have formed good habits in respect of diet, exercise, and the avoidance of cigarette smoking. Cancer of the lung also claimed its victims from middle aged men. Cigarette smoking is known to be the most important factor in the causation of lung cancer, most of the deaths from this cause being preventable.

In the deaths at ages over 65 years, Ischaemic Heart Disease again was the chief cause. The number of deaths from this cause continue to be much greater in men than in women until the age of 75 and over when the number of deaths in females equals that in males.

In the older age group more females than males succumbed to cerebro-vascular disease.

Another important cause of death in men over the age of 65 is bronchitis. In addition to causing death, bronchitis often results in years of ill-health and inability to work. This is a serious problem in the mining villages of South Wales. Arduous work in the dusty conditions of coal mining, and cigarette smoking are known to be of significance in the causation and continuance of this condition, but recent research has shown high rates for respiratory disease in children where neither of these factors operate. There is an urgent need for further research into the causation of bronchitis and allied respiratory conditions in South Wales.

The Infant mortality and the peri-natal mortality rates were higher in Gelligaer than the national rates. It was disconcerting to find that pneumonia and bronchitis caused 8 of the 16 deaths under the age of one year. Two deaths were due to congenital abnormalities, and 3 deaths were due to prematurity and conditions associated with birth.

There were no maternal deaths in the area in 1969.

Of the notifiable diseases, measles was the most important numerically, 227 being notified. There were no deaths from this cause, but several serious complications with long lasting effects can occur. Parents are urged to get their children vaccinated in order to prevent this unpleasant and potentially dangerous disease.

1969 was the first full year for notification of Infective Jaundice, and 74 cases were notified. Dysentery resulted in 173 cases being notified. There was no localised large outbreak. The cases occurred in small numbers throughout the area.

There was a small outbreak of Salmonella Food Poisoning in 1969.

The Public Health Inspectors are constantly vigilant in the supervision of shops and catering establishments where food is handled in order to prevent as far as possible spread of infectious disease by food and drink

Services for the aged continue to play an important part in helping many old people to remain in their own homes instead of having to enter a Welfare Home or Hospital. 97,304 meals were supplied to pensioners during 1969, of these 36,986 being served at the 14 luncheon clubs set up in the area. The remainder were delivered to the homes of the aged. Many pensioners have been rehoused in easily managed ground floor flats in the area, and 15 bungalows for the aged are in process of being built at Pontllytyn.

During 1969, many unfit houses have been demolished, mainly in Pontllytyn, and Pentwyn and families have been rehoused in modern new houses. There are many old, unfit houses in the area and during 1969 a great deal of consideration has been given to the question of speeding up the clearance of these, together with the rehabilitation of houses which, although not so bad as to be declared unfit, are, nevertheless, substandard and often lacking modern amenities.

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The infant mortality and the perinatal mortality rates were higher in Glamorgan than the national rates. It was disappointing to find that pneumonia and bronchitis caused 8 of the 16 deaths under the age of one year. Two deaths were due to congenital abnormalities, and 3 deaths were due to prematurity and conditions associated with birth.

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Services for the aged continue to play an important part in helping many old people to remain in their own homes instead of having to enter a Welfare Home or Hospital. 27,304 meals were supplied to pensioners during 1969, of these 36,986 being served at the 14 lunch clubs set up in the area. The remainder were delivered to the homes of the aged. Many pensioners have been rehoused in newly managed ground floor flats in the area, and 15 bungalows for the aged are in process of being built at Pontleystyn.

During 1969, many unfit houses have been demolished, mainly in Pontleystyn, and Pontwyn and families have been rehoused in modern new houses. There are many old, unfit houses in the area and during 1969 a great deal of consideration has been given to the question of speeding up the clearance of these, together with the rehabilitation of houses which, although not so bad as to be declared unfit, are nevertheless, unsatisfactory and often lacking modern amenities.

It is unfortunate that the unfit houses form a large percentage of houses in certain villages where rebuilding new houses may be difficult or impossible. The inhabitants of these villages are reluctant to leave an area where they have spent the greater part of their lives, and where ties of family and friendship are very strong. Such links take on an even more important role as old age approaches.

We are still waiting for final plans in the re-organisation of the National Health Service, but few people will disagree that there is a need for doing away with the Tripartite Principle and for unification of the Hospital, Local Authority and General Practitioner Services. Whatever will be the future of Public Health Departments, one thing is certain - there are many great and complex problems in preventive medicine to be solved. Some of the problems are fairly new ones produced by pollution of the atmosphere, the changing habits of people and the increasing proportion of elderly people in the community. A great deal needs to be done in epidemiological studies and preventive measures in an effort to slow down or halt death from Ischaemic Heart Disease, malignant neoplasms and bronchitis, especially as so many victims of these diseases are middle aged men. A great deal of research is going on into causes of congenital abnormalities and when the causes are known prevention becomes a possibility. Perhaps one of the immediate tasks to be done in preventive medicine is to motivate the public to become interested in positive health as opposed to just not being ill. This often means planning ahead for health by controlling habits such as cigarette smoking and over-eating, and by developing worthwhile interests and activities for leisure time. I would like to see the public less satisfied with poor conditions that may affect health, and to complain to the right authorities when they see such things as careless or dirty catering, dumping of unsightly rubbish, or malpractices in the care of the young, the sick, or the elderly. I would like to see people make more demands for better housing, and take greater advantage of the opportunities available to get essential amenities, such as a bathroom, indoor toilet, and hot water installed in their homes. And, finally, I would like to see the public less complacent and less willing to accept the toll of life and loss of health caused by accidents on the road or in the home, and do all in their power to protect the young and the old especially from tragedy caused by accident.

I wish to thank the Divisional Medical Officer for information on the County Health Services, and the Housing Manager and the Clerk for information they have supplied. I wish also to pay tribute to my colleagues in the Public Health Department for their loyalty, and the efficient and enthusiastic way in which they have worked during the year. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Members and Officers of the Council for their great help, consideration and co-operation during 1969.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH G. JAMES

Medical Officer of Health.

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	-	K. G. Turner
Vice - Chairman	-	A. E. Carey

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

H. A. Andrews	B. Harris
W. H. D. Bennett	D. E. Harris
Walter Bowen	E. J. Jenkins
E. E. Burgess	F. J. Jenkins
W. H. Coleman, J.P.	J. H. Jones
D. B. Cooke	W. Poyntz
John Davies	H. Price
J. V. Davies	H. L. Roberts, J.P.
R. Dymond	G. T. Richards, J.P.
E. Evans	A. R. Rogers
H. V. Edwards	J. D. B. Rogers
P. G. Hancock	Cledwen Williams

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Vice-Chairman	-	H. V. Edwards

H. A. Andrews
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 Walter Bowen
 A. E. Carey
 W. H. Coleman, J.P.
 R. Dymond
 E. Evans
 P. G. Hancock
 F. J. Jenkins
 W. Poyntz
 H. Price
 G. T. Richards, J.P.
 A. R. Rogers
 K. G. Turner

CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council	-	D. W. C. Morgan, Ll.B.
Treasurer and Accountant	-	H. E. B. Matthews, A.I.M.T.A.
Engineer and Surveyor	-	W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	-	J. E. E. Bird, A.M.B.I.M., A.G.S.
Omnibus Manager	-	Roy Marshall, A.M. Inst. T.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	-	Elizabeth G. James, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
Clerical Staff	-	L. Chilton
Pupil Public Health Inspector	-	G. Walwyn
Rodent Officer	-	L. Trollope
Pest Officer	-	A. Bate
Meals Organiser	-	Mrs. D. Bate.

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population	-	34,500
Total Acreage	-	16,772
Rateable Value	-	£709,739
Product of 1d. rate	-	£2,838

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population	-				34, 500		
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>					<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	570	281	289
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	36	16	20
Total	...	...	...	...	606	297	309
<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	12	6	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Total	...	...	...	...	13	6	7

LIVE BIRTHS

1946	-	794
1947	-	830
1948	-	786
1949	-	759
1950	-	708
1951	-	631
1952	-	629
1953	-	664
1954	-	644
1955	-	672
1956	-	649
1957	-	667
1958	-	647
1959	-	648
1960	-	605
1961	-	634
1962	-	688
1963	-	675
1964	-	676
1965	-	690
1966	-	658
1967	-	657
1968	-	616
1969	-	606

The number of live births in 1969 was 606. This gives a crude birth rate of 17.6 per 1,000 population and is a little higher than the national rate. The ratio to the national rate is 1.08.

During the late 1940's, the number of births was high. The number slowly decreased during the 1950's, recording the lowest figure of 605 in 1960. The number then increased until 1965, and has since been declining. The numbers may increase over the next few years due to the increasing number of women in the 20's. The increase in the number of women of child bearing age is a consequence of the higher birth rate of the late 1940's.

Factors affecting the number of births are the age structure and size of the population, and the facilities available for advice on family planning.

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DEATHS

In 1969, deaths numbered 447 - males 257, females 190

1960	-	411
1961	-	396
1962	-	423
1963	-	425
1964	-	398
1965	-	416
1966	-	413
1967	-	385
1968	-	409
1969	-	447

Maternal Deaths

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There were 447 deaths in the Urban Area during 1969, giving a crude death rate of 11.8 per 1,000 population. This is higher than the national average. The ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the national death rate is 1.42.

The following table gives the number of deaths at different ages :-

0	-	1 year	-	16	-	6 males; 10 females ;
1	-	15 years	-	3	-	2 males; 1 female ;
15	-	25 years	-	4	-	4 males ; 0 females ;
25	-	35 years	-	2	-	- males ; 2 females;
35	-	45 years	-	13	-	8 males ; 5 females ;
45	-	55 years	-	32	-	20 males ; 12 females ;
55	-	65 years	-	69	-	53 males ; 16 females ;
65	-	75 years	-	130	-	74 males ; 56 females ;
75 and over	-		-	178	-	90 males ; 88 females ;

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Page 9

				<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	101	70	171
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	33	23	56
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	...		...	17	40	57
Deaths from Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	44	9	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	...	...	...	1	-	1
Deaths from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			...	2	1	3
Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	-	-	-
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	2	-	2
Deaths from Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	3	2	5
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	...	7	4	11
Deaths from Pneumonia	...	...	...	15	9	24
Deaths from other diseases of Respiratory System			...	10	5	15
Deaths from Violent Causes	...	...	...	8	5	13
Deaths from Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1	1
Deaths from Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	1	2	3
Deaths from Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	4	2	6

DEATHS IN THE YOUNG

From the age of one year to 35 years the most important single cause of death was accident.

In the age group 35 to 44 years there were 13 deaths. Four of these were caused by malignant neoplasm, and four by Ischaemic Heart Disease.

DEATHS IN MIDDLE AGE

In the age group 45 - 54 years there were 32 deaths, the chief causes being Ischaemic Heart Disease (10 males and 2 females) and malignant neoplasm (3 males and 2 females).

In the age group 55 - 64 years, there were 18 deaths from Ischaemic Heart Disease (13 males, 5 females) and 14 deaths from malignant neoplasm (11 males, 3 females).

DEATHS OVER THE AGE OF 65 years

The chief cause of death in this age group was again Ischaemic Heart Disease (50 males, 38 females). Bronchitis caused 40 deaths (32 males, 8 females). 30 people died of Cerebro-vascular Disease (8 males, 22 females). Malignant neoplasm caused 18 deaths. Of these, 10 were male and 8 female. Of the male deaths, 5 were due to neoplasm of the lung.

DEATHS FROM HEART AND CIRCULATORY DISEASES
(excluding cerebro-vascular disease)

1960	-	149
1961	-	132
1962	-	153
1963	-	145
1964	-	116
1965	-	146
1966	-	155
1967	-	124
1968	-	152
1969	-	171

The majority of these deaths (122) were caused by Ischaemic Heart Disease or coronary thrombosis. Coronary thrombosis is the most significant single cause of death in this area in middle aged men, and also in men over the age of 65 years. The cause, or causes of coronary heart disease have not been determined with any degree of accuracy so that prevention is difficult to achieve. Factors associated with the condition are heredity, obesity, lack of physical exercise, and cigarette smoking.

DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS AND LEUKAEMIA

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>		<u>DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER</u>
1960	-	62	-	11
1961	-	62	-	15
1962	-	68	-	16
1963	-	65	-	11
1964	-	71	-	12
1965	-	71	-	18
1966	-	63	-	10
1967	-	63	-	8
1968	-	70	-	11
1969	-	56	-	16

Malignant neoplasm continues to be an important cause of death in the middle and older age groups. Malignant neoplasm of the lung and bronchus still causes the highest proportion of these deaths. Fifteen males and one female died of cancer of the lung in this area in 1969. Cigarette smoking is known to be the chief factor in the causation of this disease so most, if not all, deaths from this cause could be avoided.

DEATHS FROM BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA

1960	-	22
1961	-	29
1962	-	41
1963	-	29
1964	-	48
1965	-	48
1966	-	47
1967	-	36
1968	-	30
1969	-	53

Bronchitis is another important cause of death in this area, especially in men over the age of 65 years. In addition to causing death, bronchitis causes a great deal of ill-health over many years, and results in absenteeism from work. In adult males, smoking and arduous and dusty work in the coal mines play an important part in causation, but other factors are involved in the high incidence of bronchitis in South Wales. A recent survey of respiratory disease in over 10,000 children aged 6 - 10 years has recently been undertaken by research workers of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It was shown that in South Wales the rates of respiratory disease found in children, like the rates of respiratory morbidity and deaths among adults were well above those of English areas with comparable levels of air pollution. Nor is the high incidence in South Wales due to differences in social class structure. Cigarette smoking and dirty work are not factors in the causation of respiratory infection in children. One possible explanation is that there is a specific inherited susceptibility to respiratory disease in this area. There is an urgent need for further studies to be undertaken to identify all the causes of the condition.

ACCIDENTS

Accidents continue to be the chief cause of death in the young. All efforts made to lower the number of these deaths and also the number of non-fatal accidents are to be commended as all of these deaths in young people are potentially preventable.

AGE AT DEATH	DEATHS OCCURRING IN HOSPITAL		DEATHS OCCURRING AT HOME	
	No.	Cause	No.	Cause
1 - 1 days	1 1 1	Prematurity congenital deformity Foetal distress	-	
1 - 2 days	-		-	
2 - 3 days	1	Prematurity	-	
3 - 4 days	-		-	
4 - 5 days	-		-	
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	-		-	
1 - 2 weeks	1	Spina Bifida	-	
2 - 3 weeks	-		-	
3 - 4 weeks	-		-	
1 - 2 months	-		1	Bronchiolitis
2 - 3 months	-		2 1	Bronchitis Accident
3 - 4 months	1	Bronchiolitis	1	Broncho-pneumonia
4 - 5 months	1	Bronchiolitis	-	
5 - 6 months	-		1	Acute pneumonia
6 - 7 months	1	Cardiac failure	-	
7 - 8 months	-		1	Head injuries
8 - 9 months	-		-	
9 - 10 months	-		-	
10 - 11 months	-		-	
11 - 12 months	1	Bronchiolitis	-	
Total	9		7	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

			<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Deaths of infants under one year	...	...	6	10	16
Legitimate	...	...	6	9	15
Illegitimate	...	...	-	1	1

The Infant Mortality Rate (total infant deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) was :-

26 in the Gelligaer Urban Area compared with
18 in England and Wales

The perinatal mortality includes still-births and infant deaths under one week. In 1968, the perinatal mortality in the Gelligaer Urban Area was :-

27 per 1,000 live and still births compared with
23 per 1,000 live and still-births in England and Wales.

There were 13 still-births in the Urban Area giving a still-birth rate of

21 per 1,000 total births compared with
13 per 1,000 total births in England and Wales.

25% of infant deaths occurred in the first week of life (early neo-natal mortality) and 56% occurred within the first four weeks of life.

I give a comparison of Infant Mortality for ten years in the Gelligaer Area :-

1960	-	42 . 98
1961	-	31 . 55
1962	-	21 . 80
1963	-	38 . 52
1964	-	34 . 02
1965	-	20 . 29
1966	-	19 . 76
1967	-	29 . 00
1968	-	19 . 00
1969	-	26 . 00

In 1969, the Infant Mortality and the peri-natal mortality were higher than the National Rates. There is a considerable swing in the rate from year to year, and this can be accounted for by the fact that the numbers we are dealing with are small. Although there is no ground for complacency, it must be noted that the general trend over the past ten years has been for a lowering of the rate. Two of the deaths were due to congenital abnormalities. Three deaths were due to prematurity and conditions associated with birth. It is disconcerting to find that pneumonia and bronchitis caused 8 deaths in children under the age of one year.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASESNotification of Infectious Diseases - Ages distribution

Disease	Total	0- 1	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65- 75	75 and over
Whooping Cough	10	-	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	227	11	24	29	29	39	94	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neon.	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	9	1	1	1	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	7	2	2
Dysentery	173	10	11	14	13	7	37	12	45	14	4	6
Infective Hepatitis	74	-	-	4	8	3	47	3	7	1	1	-

MEASLES

There were 227 cases of Measles notified in 1969. The number of children vaccinated against Measles tends to be low. In Glamorgan during 1969 -

3 . 9 % of those born in 1968 were vaccinated
 17 . 7 % of those born in 1967 were vaccinated
 11 . 5 % of those born in 1966 were vaccinated

In 1966, the U. S. A. Government undertook a massive campaign against Measles, followed by an assessment by the National Communicable Diseases' Bureau of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1969. It was shown that following the vaccination programme the number of cases of Measles that occurred was only 6% of the average annual incidence for the ten years 1953 - 62 and that many hundreds of lives were saved and many more cases of mental abnormality prevented. These studies show that with a co-ordinated national scheme for Measles vaccination this disease could be eradicated in this country.

RUBELLA

A vaccine is now available for the prevention of Rubella (or German Measles) but the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has not yet made a general recommendation for its use. At present, vaccination is not undertaken at the County Clinics.

OUTBREAK OF FOOD POISONING

In November, an outbreak of Food Poisoning due to Salmonella infection occurred in guests who had attended a wedding reception in a neighbouring district.

Twenty four of the guests gave positive results to Salmonella and of these four were employed in work which involved the handling of food. Three of these were excluded from work, and the fourth person was given other duties. No secondary cases were known to have occurred.

The caterers at the wedding reception did not reside or operate from the Gelligaer Urban District.

Salmonella Montevideo, Salmonella Heidelberg and Salmonella Infantis were identified as causing the outbreak. The source of the infection was probably poultry. Poultry is becoming increasingly important as a source of Salmonellosis, and measures for reduction of this infection are required at all stages of production, including reduction of contamination of animal food stuffs, and during breeding. Thorough cooking is also essential, as frozen, oven-ready chickens may be already contaminated. Cooking on a rotary spit may not always destroy the organisms at the centre of the chicken. Care must also be taken to prevent contamination of cooked poultry by hands or utensils which have been incontact with raw poultry.

DYSENTERY

Although 173 cases of Dysentery were notified, there was no localised large outbreak. The number was made up of odd cases occurring throughout the area at different times during the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

I am grateful to Dr. P. John, the Divisional Medical Officer of Glamorgan for the following information. The numbers apply to the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Division - numbers relating only to Gelligaer are not available.

TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. Vaccination programme in children over 13 years :-

Number of pupils given skin test	-	1,027
Number of pupils found to be negative	-	1,014
Percentage found to be negative	-	98.73 %
Number of pupils consenting for B. C. G.	-	1,151
Percentage of pupils consenting for B.C.G.	-	77.77 %
Number of pupils given B. C. G.	-	1142

Of the 1142 pupils who were given B. C. G. in 1969, 208 gave consent for B. C. G. during 1968.

PRIMARY IMMUNISATION

(Diphtheria , Pertussis, Tetanus)

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation	-	424
Booster triple injections	-	736

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations and Re-vaccinations against Smallpox-	181
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POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis	-	508
Booster doses	-	1157

MEASLES VACCINATION

Number of children vaccinated against Measles	-	208
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In the case of vaccination against Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Triple immunisation the numbers are lower than in 1968 due to a revised schedule for the timing of dosage.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 64 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 69 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 years and over	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	-	1	-	2	1	-	-

INCIDENCE AND DEATHS

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>INCIDENCE</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>
1960	...	30	...	6
1961	...	19	...	6
1962	...	15	...	9
1963	...	18	...	5
1964	...	13	...	1
1965	...	18	...	4
1966	...	10	...	-
1967	...	3	...	5
1968	...	7	...	3
1969	...	8	...	3

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from Tuberculosis remains low. Not only has there been a steady decline in new cases and deaths over the past years, but also a change in the age at which the disease occurs. Comparing the present situation with only 15 years ago, one can recognise the decline of cases in young adults who previously were the most numerous victims. The incidence is now highest in older men. There is no comparable high incidence in old women, and it is thought that the disease in old men is not a new infection but a flare up of an old infection, with smoking as a significant factor. These older cases form a pool of infection in the community especially when, as so often happens, the symptoms are thought by the patient to be ' smoker's cough' or bronchitis.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The mobile units operating in South Wales which gave an easily available service for the discovery of new cases of Tuberculosis and acted as a chest x-ray service for general practitioners, were closed on March 31st. The static units are being retained at Swansea, Newport and Cardiff. Those at Newport and Swansea are now attached to hospital out-patients departments, and consideration is being given to a similar siting of the static unit in Cardiff.

The reason for the change given by the Welsh Hospital Board is that the Mass Radiography Service as a whole is making only a small contribution to the discovery of new active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the mobile units in particular an even smaller one. The low number of new cases being found by mobile units does not therefore justify the continuation of the service.

HOUSING

I am grateful to the Council's Housing Manager for the following information :

Number of houses completed and occupied in 1969	-	134
Number of houses sanctioned and in course of erection	-	186
Number completed and occupied since 1918 (including 140 bungalows since demolished)	-	2774
Number of applicants on the Council's Housing list 31.12.69	-	724
Number of families rehoused in 1969	-	350
Number of families rehoused as a result of closing orders	-	3
Number of Old Age Pensioners rehoused	-	33
Number of key workers rehoused	-	13
Rehoused as a result of fire	-	1

Only one vacancy occurred at St. Gwladys Court during the year.

19 families were removed from the list of applicants having purchased their own properties. 18 families were rehoused at the infill site at Pontlloftyn from the Slum Clearance Area.

The aluminium bungalows at Bargoed were demolished and the families rehoused in on the Gilfach/ Bargoed site.

The Authority purchased houses at 5, Pleasant View, Tirphil, 1 Harcourt Tce., Brithdir, and 'Maesyrhaf' Pontlloftyn.

HOUSING OF THE AGED

The following units are at present provided for the elderly :-

Hengoed - 62 units of accommodation in 42 purpose built bungalows and 20 one-bedroomed flats.

Gelligaer - 36 one-bedroomed flats.

Bargoed - 44 one-bedroomed flats. St. Gwladys Court provides 32 units of accommodation for the fragile aged who, without the security of knowing that they can call on a Warden in any emergency, could not manage on their own.

Gilfach - 9 purpose built bungalows.

Pontlloftyn - 23 one-bedroomed flats; and 15 purpose built bungalows are in process of being built.

Fochriw - 6 one-bedroomed flats.

SERVICES FOR THE AGED

During 1969 there were 97,304 meals supplied to pensioners in the Gelligaer Area. Of these, 60,318 were delivered to the people's own homes, and the rest were consumed at the 14 luncheon clubs set up at Fochriw, Deri, Bargoed, St. Gwladys Court, Tirphil, Pontlloftyn, Brithdir, Pengam, Gelligaer, Bedlinog, Trelewis, Cefn Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach and Tiryberth. These luncheon clubs continue to be staffed by volunteers, and great credit is due to these people, without whom this part of the service could fail. The centres are flourishing in all these areas and provide many old folk with companionship and an incentive to 'dress-up and go out'. The meals to the housebound and the considerate services of the staff who deliver the meals continue to be greatly appreciated. The provision of meals to the aged is one of the most important functions which the Council has undertaken. Malnutrition is known to occur in the aged, especially when they live alone. An old person may appear to be in a satisfactory state of nutrition but have no adequate nutritional reserves so that illness such as pneumonia may precipitate a state of nutritional deficiency. Physical or mental incapacity may lead to deficient intake of food or to sufficient, but inappropriate, food. Apathy and depression amongst the aged may also result in far from adequate feeding.

Persons living in the area, who are Old Age Pensioners, continue to enjoy the benefit of reduced bus fares made available by the Council

Home Help Services

In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division, 756 households were supplied with Home Helps by the Glamorgan County Council in 1969, and of these the occupants in 670 cases were 65 years and over.

Home visits

In the Health Division during 1969 the District Nurses made 38,229 visits to people over 65 years. In addition, 2,388 visits were made to the elderly by the County's Health Visitors. Welfare Officers also visit the elderly.

Night Sitter-in Service

7 night sitters were employed in the Health Division by the Glamorgan County Council in 1969, and most of this service was to the elderly. The object of the service is to tend to the needs of the critically ill patients where no relatives or neighbours are available to provide this care.

Chiropody Service

The County's Chiropodists treated 1,345 pensioners in 1969. Treatment was given in the patients' own homes and in Welfare Clinics.

Welfare Home, Gelligaer

37 aged persons are accommodated at Brynheulog Welfare Home, Gelligaer.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Action was taken on two occasions under Section 47 of the Act in 1969.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

<u>Month</u>		<u>Rainfall</u> (in inches)		<u>Solids</u> (in tons per sq. mile)
January	-	5 . 18	-	19 . 25
February	-	1 . 43	-	8 . 41
March	-	1 . 49	-	6 . 50
April	-	2 . 58	-	8 . 10
May	-	2 . 56	-	8 . 70
June	-	2 . 60	-	8 . 70
July	-	1 . 70	-	4 . 80
August	-	3 . 87	-	12 . 04
September	-	1 . 71	-	12 . 87
October	-	0 . 77	-	5 . 22
November	-	6 . 03	-	12 . 71
December	-	2 . 90	-	6 . 82

The above readings are obtained by exposing a standard deposit gauge on the roof of the Emporium at Bargoed. This is considered one of the worst areas for pollution in the area. The records show that during the year the general level of pollution was lower than in previous years. High readings were obtained, however, during certain months when easterly winds prevailed.

Towards the end of 1969 deposit gauges were placed at sites in Gilfach and Hengoed. These will enable comparisons to be made between pollution in different parts of the area. The 1968 Clean Air Act which became operative in October 1969 will make easier the control of atmospheric pollution.

1. give below a comparison of results for the past ten years :-

1969	-	114 . 12 tons
1968	-	194 . 00 tons
1967	-	196 . 36 tons
1966	-	239 . 04 tons
1965	-	199 . 94 tons
1964	-	210 . 33 tons
1963	-	197 . 93 tons
1962	-	229 . 17 tons
1961	-	294 . 53 tons

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL STAFF

During 1969 medical examinations undertaken for the Council numbered 122. These included :-

- (a) - examination of all new employees.
- (b) - examination of those employees who, because of ill-health, are engaged in a temporary capacity.
- (c) - examination of employees on return to work after illness to ascertain their fitness to carry out their duties satisfactorily. These examinations are of special importance for members of the kitchen staff, and bus drivers.
- (d) - requests from heads of Departments to investigate prolonged or repeated absence from work, especially where the integrity of the employee is in doubt.
- (e) - routine periodical examination of all bus drivers.
- (f) - examination of employees on their application for Public Service Vehicle driver's licences, and licences for the driving of heavy goods vehicles.

Of the 122 examinations undertaken in 1969 :-

45 were employees of the Transport Department ;
41 were employees of the Public Works Department ;
12 were employees of the Housing Department ;
12 were employees of the Public Health Department (Meals Service)
12 were members of the Council office staff.

HEALTH EDUCATIONHome Safety

In October 1969 a Home Safety Committee was formed in the district. This is a Standing Committee of the Council consisting of all elected members, together with 12 co-opted members from interested organisations. Plans for extension of publicity drives, and organisation of campaigns to deal with the problem of accidents in the home were prepared.

Smoking

Publicity drives were again undertaken to bring home to people the hazards of cigarette smoking; and the County Authorities undertook this responsibility in the schools, so the campaign and publicity drive were aimed at young people in youth clubs, community halls, clubs and places of work.

During the year, members of the Council decided to prohibit smoking in the Council Chamber.

Clean Catering

During the year, the Public Health Inspectors have continued to give advice in shops and catering establishments on methods of clean catering and safe preparation of food.

Dumping of rubbish

Dumping of rubbish can be a hazard to the safety and health of residents - especially children - in our area. During 1969 over 10,000 pamphlets were delivered to all households in the area giving information on official dumping places and warning of the penalties which can result under the Civic Amenities Act. Posters were also displayed in prominent places.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1969

I present my report upon the day-to-day routine work of the Public Health Department for the year 1969.

The year was a notable one from the point of view of Local Authorities and all persons interested in or concerned with Housing or housing conditions by the coming into operation of the new Housing Act. The Housing Act 1969 repealed or amended much of the previous law concerned with housing generally, and in particular the law applying to the improvement of dwelling houses and the payment of grant aid for such improvements. Basically, grants are payable for :-

- (a) - the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses or other buildings ;
- (b) - the improvement of dwellings, or
- (c) - the improvement of housing in multiple occupation by the provision of standard amenities.

Three types of grant are available - Discretionary Grants which are entirely at the discretion of the Local Authority ; Standard Grants payable for the provision of all or any of the standard amenities which were previously lacked ; and a Special Grant which may be payable to large houses in multiple occupation. The amount of grant available has been generously increased under the new Act and can now amount to £1,000 in the case of the first mentioned, and £200 in the case of the Standard Grant, the applicant in each case paying one half on a 'pound-for-pound' basis. During 1969 the number of Improvement Grants paid by the Gelligaer Council amounted to a total of 90, made up as follows :-

Number of Discretionary Grants allowed	...	28
Number of Standard Grants allowed	...	62

Through the courtesy of the Clerk's Department I give a table showing the number of grants paid in the last ten years :-

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>DISCRETIONARY GRANTS</u>		<u>STANDARD GRANTS</u>
1960	...	48	...	9
1961	...	24	...	24
1962	...	28	...	19
1963	...	33	...	24
1964	...	40	...	26
1965	...	30	...	21
1966	...	42	...	80
1967	...	41	...	22
1968	...	23	...	49
1969	...	28	...	62

Since the coming into operation of the new Act in August 1969 more publicity than ever before has been given to the grant aid provisions, and Local Authorities have been exhorted by the respective Government Departments to do everything in their power to try to persuade people to take full advantage of the facilities offered in an effort to modernise and lengthen the life of units of accommodation which would otherwise remain sub-standard and would subsequently be demolished as unfit for human occupation. As can be seen from the figures given much has been done already in this direction, but much more can still be done and, indeed has to be done before every house in the area can be said to enjoy modern every day amenities such as a bathroom, running hot water, and flushing cistern to its sanitary convenience.

Provision is also made by the new Act for Area Improvements whereby Local Authorities are empowered, after certain procedures have been complied with, to effect an upgrading of whole areas, both houses and environment, within their districts. Two areas have already been surveyed and reported upon to the Council up to the time of preparation of this report. Both areas comprise approximately 200 - 300 houses. A full and comprehensive picture of existing conditions prevailing was revealed by each report, which, in turn, received due consideration by the Council. Discussions are still proceeding on this involved and complicated matter, and officers of the Ministry have visited the two areas concerned in order to assist the Council on what are entirely new measures and functions.

One further change brought about by the new Act, and worthy of mention is that relating to the 'Standard of Fitness' of dwelling houses. Previously, adequate provision for the storage, preparation and cooking of food was a statutory requirement laid down by the Housing Act 1957. The word 'storage' has now been deleted and replaced by the term "bad arrangement". In the Act of 1969 'bad arrangement' is defined as any feature which prohibits the safe or unhampered passage of the occupants in the dwelling, and quotes such examples as 'narrow, steep, or winding staircases ; absence of hand rails ; inadequate landings outside bedrooms ; ill-defined changes in floor levels ; inter-communicating bedrooms ; and a water closet opening directly from a living room or kitchen.'.

During the year, Demolition Orders were confirmed and the families rehoused by the Council from the following :-

- 6 dwelling houses at Stoney Houses, Penybank
- 10 dwelling houses at Chapel Row, Penybank
- 4 dwelling houses at Coedcae, Tirphil
- No. 10 and 11, Mount Pleasant, Pentwyn
- 6 dwelling houses at Graig Rhymney, Tirphil.

As a matter of regret I have to report that with the demolition of the 16 houses at Penybank, the village has now ceased to exist as a viable community; formerly possessing a school, a public house, and a sizeable chapel the village originally consisted of a total of 23 dwelling houses, four of which formed the basement of, and were directly underneath, the chapel floor itself. All the houses were very old, had been structurally neglected and also were seriously affected by mining subsidence caused by the workings of a nearby colliery. The houses have all been vacated and are awaiting demolition. So also have the school and public house, and only the chapel remains.

In addition, Clearance Orders were confirmed in one instance after the receipt of objections and a Local Public Enquiry at several streets at Pontlloftyn - namely the Thomas Street / Arch Street / Picton Street areas, and the remainder of High Street, part Victoria Street and Farm Road, and part of Merchant Street area comprising a total of 63 dwelling houses. At the time of preparation of this report, the Council have signified its intention to demolish and clear the remaining houses at Victoria Street and Farm Road, all properties at Rock Road, and the sub-standard dwellings at Mount Street and Queen Street, comprising a total of 39 dwellings. Plans have also reached an advanced stage for the demolition and clearance of dwelling houses at Hill Row, Mount Pleasant, and Davies Row in the village of Pentwyn where there are a further 21 houses over ripe for demolition. Provision has been made for rehousing the displaced families at a new Council estate at Pontlloftyn, a mile away from their present homes.

Work in connection with the enforcement of maintenance and repair of houses and the detection and eradication of nuisances generally, although tending to diminish with the increase in owner occupancy, still remains an important part of the work of a Public Health Department. One difficulty experienced in this connection is the inevitable delays which occur in effecting repairs due to the shortage of skilled craftsmen who direct their efforts into channels which tend to be more profitable and more congenial. Speaking generally, however, it must be agreed that substantial advances have taken place of late years in the housing stock within the Urban Area. In addition to the substantial clearance of old and unfit houses, houses generally, when viewed externally, are now seen to present a cleaner and brighter appearance to the eye, and where this is to be seen outside it is almost always reflected internally by the provision of better internal lighting by the fitment of large windows with greater areas of glass surface ; alterations and improvements in internal design, and brighter and more cheerful decorations. Much more, however, remains to be done, particularly with some of the older houses and it has now seems' to have become an accepted fact that many of these have outlived their useful life and require replacement by modern type units of accommodation.

HOUSING ACTS 1957 - 1961 and LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT 1953

I am grateful to Mr. D. W. C. Morgan, Clerk of the Council, for the following figures :-

Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were made	-	28
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were made	-	2
involving whole of the premises	-	2
involving part of the premises	-	nil
Number of Closing Orders revoked following undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	-	nil
Number of houses demolished as a result of Compulsory Purchase or Clearance Orders	-	17

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1953
RENT ACT 1957

Number of applications received for Certificate of Disrepair	-	nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-	nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	nil
Number of undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	-	nil
Number of applications for Revocation of certificates accepted	-	nil
Number of Certificates revoked by the Council	-	nil
Number of applications for certificates of disrepair refused	-	nil
Number of visits made to premises by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	-	nil

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

In company with a member of the Housing Manager's Staff, joint inspections were made by members of the Housing and Public Health Departments where considered necessary and desirable to houses under the control of the Council. Such visits were made to :-

- a) - dwellings as a direct instruction from the Council or Housing Committee, or resulting from complaints by neighbours or interested persons, where the required standards of cleanliness were not being maintained, or were in danger of deterioration.
- b) - dirty or verminous houses, or to houses whose tenants were troubled by infestation of insect pests such as ants or cockroaches, or by rats.
- c) - houses which were abused by tenants ; or inspection of houses intended to be occupied by Council tenants with, where necessary, disinfection or disinfection.
- d) - dwellings where there was an accumulation of refuse or rubbish, or with abandoned, or what seemed to be abandoned, motor vehicles.

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MILK AND DAIRY ACT AND REGULATIONS 1949 - 1959

Milk is produced by 45 farms in the area. The major portion of this is taken in churns from whence it is collected by the Pasteurising plants which operate outside the area. Since 1961, the Licensing Authority for the retailing of all grades of milk has been vested in the Foods and Drugs Authority which for the Gelligaer Area is the Glamorgan County Council. The responsibility for milk sampling also falls on the County Council. Complaints, apart from the misuse of milk bottles, are few. There were no complaints regarding the quality of the milk itself. With regard to the misuse of milk bottles, it is interesting to note that the greater variety of materials used for food packing means that more use is being made of non-returnable containers for milk, particularly for milk supplies to school children.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

As a result of complaints received	...	751
In connection with housing repairs	...	379

VISITS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

To dirty and verminous houses	...	39
As a result of notifiable disease	...	7
To Schools	...	33
To Piggeries and smallholdings	...	31
To premises without a mains water supply	...	9
To moveable dwellings	...	25
To cinemas and places of entertainment	...	15
To Licensed Clubs and Premises	...	76
To premises conducting Offensive Trades	...	11
To refuse tips and ash tips	...	54
To rear lanes	...	159
To hairdressing establishments	...	25

INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955
and FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

To Dairy premises	...	22
To grocery establishments	...	197
To Cafes and Restaurants	...	111
To factories and bakehouses	...	153
To butchers shops	...	189
To school and industrial canteens	...	57
To ice-creameries	...	57
To licensed premises	...	32
To fish friers and fish restaurants	...	39

SCHOOL CANTEENS

For the 33 schools in the area there are 20 school kitchens, some kitchens preparing and cooking meals which are afterwards conveyed in hygienically designed insulated containers to smaller schools where kitchens are not provided. Almost 100 women are employed by the Education Authority in the preparation and cooking of mid-day meals, and approximately 60 since the introduction last year in the new category of 'meals supervisory assistant', making a grand total of 160 women in employment. An average of 4,000 meals daily are consumed during the school year. Once again, as in former Annual Reports of this kind, tribute must be paid to both the quality and the appetising nature of the meals provided, and to the diligence and hard work of all the kitchen staff concerned.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Articles of food which were found, on examination, to be unfit for human consumption are dealt with by incineration on the shop premises or, where it is impracticable, by collection by the Council's refuse lorries with subsequent deep burial on the Council's refuse tips ; or, after sterilisation by thorough boiling, used as animal feeding stuffs. Food found to be unfit during 1969 included the following :-

<u>Canned fruit and vegetables</u>	-	229 lbs. Tomatoes.	146 lbs. Peaches.	33lbs. Peas.
		39 lbs. Grapefruit.	52 lbs. Pears.	38lbs. Beans.
		51 lbs. Fruit Salad.	35 lbs. Pineapple.	179 lbs. Apricots
		73 lbs. Blackcurrants.	25 lbs. Cherries.	
<u>Fresh Meats</u>	-	45 lbs. Lamb.	80 lbs. Liver.	307 lbs. Beef.
<u>Canned Meats</u>	-	99 lbs. Corned Beef.	24 lbs. Tongue.	17lbs. Steak.
		35 lbs. Jellied Veal.	42 lbs. Meat Loaf.	131lbs. Ham.
		59 lbs. Luncheon Meat.		
<u>Fresh and Canned Fish</u>	-	37 lbs. Salmon.	8 lbs. Pilchards.	
<u>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</u>	-	75 lbs. Soup.	1634 lbs. Sugar.	41lbs. Coffee.
		443 lbs. Flour.	168 lbs. Biscuits.	43 lbs. Rice.
		177 lbs. Tea.	26 lbs. Jam.	19 lbs. Milk.
		1205 lbs. Cereals.	85 lbs. Chocolate.	

The total weight of all foods found to be unfit for human consumption was :-

8 tons 1 cwt. 4 lbs.

In connection with the transit and sale of foodstuffs, particularly as applied to and sold by modern supermarkets it is interesting to record one incident when a consignment of matches caught fire on a large closed container lorry which was conveying 8 tons of supplies to one of the local supermarkets. Some time elapsed before the blaze was discovered resulting in the condemnation of no less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons of varied foodstuffs which formed the container's total load. This incident accounts for the large total weight of 8 tons 1 cwt. and 34 lbs. of foodstuffs found during the year to be unfit for human consumption.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947 - 52

139 premises within the Urban Area are licensed for the sale of ice-cream. These premises consist of small parlour type shops, cafes, restaurants, grocers and even some licensed premises. Many of the small shops operate sporadically in their ice-cream sales, or have in some instances been squeezed out of business by the very keen competition prevailing, especially in the favourable weather conditions during the warmer months of the year.

11 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream under the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Several of these rely on the 'cold-mix' manufacture where the complete ice-cream powder is purchased ready mixed and with the correct ingredients from large specialised firms who market the powder in sealed containers which are delivered to their customers. All that is required to produce ice-cream is to add the stated amount of water direct from the tap and freeze the mixture, after which the product is ready for sale. This has the advantage that the trader can manufacture the produce more or less in accordance with his estimated sale requirements.

Samples of ice-cream taken during the year and submitted for examination showed the following results :-

- 25 samples taken
- 23 samples showed a satisfactory result
- 2 samples showed an unsatisfactory result.

Samples which show an unsatisfactory result are repeated until a satisfactory result is obtained. Most ice-cream today, particularly that prepared by the large firms, are pre-packed before leaving the factory. Particular attention is paid to traders retailing the loose, unwrapped commodity. Many mobile vans, several from outside the area, also retail ice-cream. Some of these vans are fitted with expensive machinery which manufacture ice-cream as and when required.

WATER SUPPLIES

A piped water supply is provided to the majority of houses in the area. In fact only a small percentage of isolated cottages and farms remain unconnected to a piped main supply, and have to rely on rain water or mountain streams and springs. In not one instance is any dwelling house dependant on a shallow well for a supply. Complaints of inadequate pressure to kitchen taps are occasionally received, particularly from the village of Brithdir. These are always referred to the Taf Fechan Water Board who co-operate in efforts to improve existing supplies.

While a large number of houses in the area are not supplied with running hot water, this number is being reduced annually by the installation of gas or electric heaters over kitchen sinks. These fittings ensure that hot water is available for ordinary household chores.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 and 1960

Principal food retail premises in the Gelligaer Urban Area are :-

6 Supermarkets.	39 Butchers' Shops
10 Ice Cream Manufacturers.	139 Ice-Cream Vendors
5 Bakehouses.	112 Grocery Stores.
23 Cafes and Restaurants.	17 Fried Fish and Chip shops.
63 Public Houses and Clubs.	

There were 23 premises in the area registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 - premises which are, or may be, used for the manufacture of potted, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. Such foods include meat products such as sausages, faggots, meat pies and pasties, cooked hams and brawns and tongues. Many of these products are becoming monopolised by large specialist manufacturers who distribute their goods wholesale from large controlled depots at frequent and regular intervals. All food premises are frequently visited and inspected to see that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts and the Food Hygiene Regulations are adhered to. Most food traders were supplied with copies of the Food Hygiene Regulations when they were first introduced, and copies are still available in the Public Health Department and are quite often supplied to food handlers who have lost their copies. Food manufacturers and handlers generally readily co-operate in efforts to please their customers and incidentally enhance their businesses by complying with necessary local requirements. In this way they are greatly helped by the almost universal improvement of food premises today brought about by the use of laminated plastic materials, glass, or stainless steel used for shop fittings and fixtures, which reduce to the very minimum the need for cleaning and scrubbing in food premises. Almost every shop, however small, has a refrigerator, thus allowing perishable foods to be kept longer and with a greater degree of safety. The main streets of towns today are invariably taken over by shops having regional or national coverage, and which consign the small shop keepers to back streets. Trading methods are drastically changed and it is now the aim of the supermarket to provide all the needs of the housewife under one roof. Grocers no longer confine their sale to groceries but sell meat, while butchers also sell tinned foods and fresh vegetables. However, there is still need for watchfulness and the application of good basic training and common sense in efforts to arrive at and maintain high hygienic standards demanded. Complaints of contamination or adulteration of food are still brought into the office, caused by gross carelessness or neglect on the part of the food handlers, and among such instances in 1969 were :-

- a) - a loaf of sliced bread affected by a salmon coloured mould. Moulds of this nature are occasionally found in bread and are visible only after the loaf has been sliced. This is usually caused by the improper and inefficient cooling of the bread after it has been taken from the oven.
- b) - Sausages affected by 'fly blown'.
- c) - A tin of salmon with what appeared to be particles of glass inside, but which analysis proved to be caused by the canning process.
- d) - A bar of nougat which was found to contain ants. This case was referred to the Glamorgan County Council which instituted proceedings against the makers, the defendants being fined £3 with £7. 13. 0 costs.

CARAVAN. SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

Five caravan sites have been approved and licensed by the Council. At the end of the year under review the Council have under consideration the closing of the larger of these sites because of various adverse factors that have arisen of late years. All caravans on the sites are used as permanent residences by the occupiers and despite the tendency in other parts of the country there does not appear to be any local inclination for this number to increase. One site, which is licensed for 40 caravans, has consistently during the year been substantially below the number permitted by the licence. Each of the other four sites are licensed for one caravan only. Gelligaer is fortunate that no itinerant caravans exist, thus the problems and nuisances commonly associated with this type of mobile dwelling do not arise. Although complaints are sometimes received from residents, and conditions approaching nuisances do occasionally occur, every effort is made to enforce the conditions of the site licences which are based on Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the large site in the area.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

287 premises are registered under the Act, the requirements of which relate solely to premises where persons are employed in the trade or business concerned. Self employed persons or premises where members of the owner's immediate family are employed, are not required to be registered. Details of some of the operations of the Act are as follows :-

Total number of premises registered	-	287
Number of visits made to such premises	-	561
Number of premises generally inspected	-	204
Number of new premises registered in 1969	-	7
Number of accidents to personnel reported	-	8
Number of males employed	-	661
Number of females employed	-	822
Total persons employed	-	1483

Of the 8 reported accidents, 2 were caused by lifting weights, 4 by coming into contact with hard surfaces, 1 by falling from a step ladder, and the last, potentially much more dangerous, occurred in the kitchen of an industrial canteen when an assistant applied a light to a gas appliance pilot light, the tap of which had been previously left open. Accidents become reportable if the victim loses three or more days from work as a direct result of the injury.

Many contraventions of the provisions of the Act are still found during the course of inspection and it is surprising to find apathy and ignorance of the legal provisions which still exist. Among contraventions of the Act found were :-

- a) - absence of, or insufficient first aid materials for the use of employees.
- b) - no thermometer displayed and absence of proper temperature control.
- c) - inadequate provisions for washing; supply of running hot water not readily available.
- d) - inadequate guarding of machinery.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1961
BYE-LAWS - HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All barbers and hairdressing establishments in the area have been supplied with copies of the Bye-Laws relating to hygiene and cleanliness standards that must be provided and maintained in their premises, which came into operation at the commencement of 1964. There were 46 such establishments known to the Department, some of them being conducted in front rooms of private houses, and probably more unofficial ones carried out by friends and relatives. Infringements of these conditions imposed by the Bye-Laws constitute an offence and are punishable by a fine on conviction.

LICENSED CLUBS AND
LICENSED PREMISES

There are 63 licensed premises in the area, made up as follows :-

29 Licensed Clubs
34 Public Houses.

Regular visits were made to all licensed premises, both during hours of business and when closed to the public. In past years, very many improvements and additions have been made to premises of this nature, more particularly to clubs. These improvements apply to both hygienic and sanitary features, and amenities and comforts for the customer or club member, such as fitted carpets and floor coverings, laminated plastic topped counters and tables are provided, and much more comfortable seating, artificial lighting, and ventilation provided. Colour television has also been installed in some premises for the benefit of patrons.

All inspections, especially those in the case of Club premises, are welcomed by the Management or Committee concerned, and the Department is not infrequently consulted when new developments or additional facilities are contemplated. Any infringements of the Acts or Regulations discovered during inspection are immediately notified to the Brewery Company or, in the case of a Club, to the Club Secretary concerned. During the year, letters sent to such people included the following :-

- a) - to repair or renew existing surfaces of counters and of shelves used for the storage of glasses.
- b) - repair or renew defective and burst water pipes and flushing cisterns to sanitary conveniences.
- c) - requiring the redecoration and cleansing of sanitary conveniences, and the repair of defective doors and fittings to rooms and cellars used as storage.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS
1933 and 1958

7 men residing in the area are registered as slaughtermen. There is no slaughterhouse in the Urban District. Almost all fresh meat sold in the shops is brought in from the other districts where slaughterhouses are sited, such as at Buttry Hatch at Maesycwmmmer, at Brynmawr, Cardiff and Newport. Meat imported from abroad - i.e. Canterbury Lamb, Argentinian or Australian Beef, is distributed from cold stores and warehouses situated at the Docks at Cardiff and Newport, distribution being done by large motor vehicles which deliver directly to the retail shops.

During 1969, 49 cottagers' pigs, kept by pig breeders at smallholdings or allotments, were slaughtered for human consumption ; these were all inspected as to fitness for human consumption by your Public Health Inspectors.

By arrangement with the Council of the Bedwas and Machen Urban Area, your Inspectors also carry out relief work during holidays or periods of illness at the Maesycwmmmer Slaughterhouse.

PET ANIMALS ACTS 1937 - 1961

Two premises, both in Bargoed, are registered for the sale, and keeping for sale, of pet animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, cats and budgerigars. Both premises are regularly visited during the year, and no complaints arose or were received during the period.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Since 1969, when the only Common Lodging House in the area was closed, there has been no premises of this nature in operation.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1955
CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

Four persons have been registered by the Council as Scrap Metal Dealers since the Act came into operation in 1965. One of these is registered as an itinerant dealer. Three firms operate in the area - one at Bargoed and the others at Ystrad Mynach. The Urban Area, however, is adequately served by several more journeying from nearby towns. Undoubtedly a great deal of unwanted household refuse and articles such as firegrates, fire irons and discarded clothes and textiles are disposed of by these traders, and one has only to visit their premises to see the amount of discarded materials collected to realise the problems of disposal that would arise were these businesses not in operation. Since neither of the registered persons collect animal bones or waste meat products, possible nuisance from this source is avoided and no complaints of any kind were received in 1969.

Under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 a duty is placed upon all Local Authorities to provide places where refuse other than refuse arising in the course of a business may be disposed of at all reasonable times, and the Council has now instituted a collection and disposal system whereby all bulky unwanted material may be collected by arrangement with the Council's Cleansing Department. This service is still surprisingly not widely known despite notices which have been published in the local press and by other means of publicity, and mountain tops and similar unfrequented spots are found littered by collections of old mattresses, beds, furniture and other discarded articles, some of it in a condition to give offence even to the least squeamish persons, and all of it offending aesthetically. It is surprising how the same dumping spots are used time and again by people with articles to dispose of, articles which are usually in a filthy or verminous condition, and which are always dumped during hours of darkness. It would surely be more sensible if people availed themselves of the collection services mentioned above. During the year, at no little expense, the Council commenced a large programme of making up of unmade lanes throughout the area. Apart from the obvious other advantages that will accrue from this, it is hoped that this amenity will foster a greater feeling of civic pride among the populace, and substantially contribute to the visual improvement of the area.

The Civic Amenities Act also gave increasing powers to Local Authorities in connection with the collection and disposal of old and abandoned motor vehicles. It is not generally known that it is an offence punishable on conviction by a large fine to abandon any motor vehicle, or part of a motor vehicle on any land in the open air. Powers are also given generally to Local Authorities to remove and impound vehicles that appear to have been abandoned and to charge the cost of removal and subsequent storage to the owner of the vehicle. It is not always possible to trace the owner of every abandoned vehicle, and during 1969 the Department was directly responsible for the removal of 27 vehicles within the area, and responsible through tracing and putting pressure to bear on owners, for the removal of a further 25 abandoned vehicles. By these joint measures, and with the co-operation of the general public, it is hoped that further spoiling of many open spaces in the area can be prevented.

FACTORIES' ACTS 1937 - 1961

89 factories of various types and size operate in the area. These include factories which are engaged in light and heavy engineering, and employing substantial numbers of operatives, and the ' back-room' type of radio and television dealer which may be used only occasionally.

Other factories manufacture car components, children's toys, food containers, and various miscellaneous products. With the run-down of the coal industry of late years, upon which this district largely depended, every effort has been made by the Council to attract industrialists into the area so as to provide alternative means of employment, and some areas of land have been set aside for this purpose and freely publicised through various media. Frequent visits are made to all factories for the purpose of inspection and enforcement of the Factories' Acts, and factories within the district may be classified as follows :-

Factories to which sections 2,3,4,5,6, and 7 of the Act applies	- 86
Factories to which section 7 only of the Act applies	- 3
Number of visits made to factory premises during the year	- 422

Six notices were served during the year upon owners or persons responsible directing attention to infringements of the Act or Regulations under the Act, viz -

a) - requiring the provision of adequate sanitary conveniences	- 1
b) - regarding defects to sanitary conveniences	- 3
c) - requiring proper cleaning of walls, windows and ceilings	- 1
d) - requiring redecoration of internal walls and ceilings	- 3

39 persons - mainly women and old-age pensioners - are employed as Outworkers under the Act. Their work consists of minor alterations to clothing, or the dressing or trimming of moulded rubber articles.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Measures involved in the destruction and eradication of rats and mice, and general control of insect pests both within and about dwelling houses and workplaces continued unceasingly during the year. In addition, the biannual treatment for rats in sewers, which was done with the full co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food continued. These twice yearly treatments have undoubtedly contributed very materially to the control and reduction of the rat population in sewers and drains. In the table shown below I give further details of routine work carried out during the year :-

	<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Visits made</u>
Dwelling houses	452	314	739
Business premises	41	26	127
Refuse tips and dumps	63	57	103
Rivers, brooks and culverts	91	88	97

Although there are occasional scares and reports of rats ' as big as cats ' the rat population generally has, by measures of control, undoubtedly been kept within reasonable bounds.

91 dwelling houses were disinfested after infestation by vermin, the majority being by bed bug infestation. This is an increase of 49 houses on the figures dealt with in 1968. 19 of these were treated on a rechargeable basis.

In addition to the annual contracts previously in existence for treatment and prevention of rats, two further factories have signed annual contracts for this service. In all three instances regular inspections are carried out for which a fixed annual fee is charged by the Council. This system has worked with complete success and all three firms concerned have expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and the results obtained.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. Thomas

Senior Public Health Inspector

